

**PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA****Consumer Protection Services Program**

1418 HOWE AVENUE, SUITE 16, SACRAMENTO, CA 95825-3204
TELEPHONE (916) 561-8200 FAX (916) 263-2560 TOLL FREE 1-800-832-2251
INTERNET <http://www.ptb.ca.gov>
EMAIL cps@dca.ca.gov

December 4, 2002

Sharmishtha Sonawala
1565 Finch Way
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Citation No. 02-03-0015

CITATION

A recently submitted complaint has revealed actions taken by you which violate sections of the law regulating the practice of physical therapy.

Based on the allegations received, an onsite review of patient records conducted by the Physical Therapy Board's expert consultant determined that between June through September 2001 and on or about July 2002 to present, you functioned in the capacity of a physical therapist. It was determined that misrepresentation on your part occurred in that your application for employment and the W4 at Arthritis and Orthopedic Medical Clinic you applied for the position of a "physical therapist". Lastly, in review of random patient records for 2001 and 2002, patient records reflect your signature of licensure in that you signed off on patient records as a "P.T.L.A. on visit notes of evaluations completed by you and co-signed by your supervising physical therapist, Maureen Lipa.

A Citation is hereby issued to you in accordance with Section 125.9 of the Business and Professions Code for the violations described below.

FIRST CAUSE FOR CITATION

1. Section 2630 of the B&P

It is unlawful for any person or persons to practice or offer to practice, physical therapy in this state for compensation received or expected, or to hold himself or herself out as a physical therapist, unless at the time of so doing the person holds a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked license issued under this chapter.

Sharmishtha Sonawala
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ORDER

Further, **you are ordered to pay a fine of \$ 1,000** to the Physical Therapy Board of California within 30 days after receipt of this Citation.

If you wish to contest all or any part of this Citation, complete the enclosed "Notice of Appeal -Request for Informal Conference" form and return it to this office within 10 days after receipt of this Citation. The date indicated on the order of abatement will be held in abeyance only for any violation(s) you wish to contest. The time to correct all uncontested violations will be adhered to as specified. In the alternative, you may, within 30 days after receipt of this Citation, request a formal administrative hearing before an administrative law judge under the Administrative Procedure Act.

FAILURE TO RETURN THE REQUEST FOR INFORMAL CONFERENCE FORM OR TO REQUEST AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING WITHIN THE TIMES INDICATED WILL WAIVE YOUR RIGHT TO ADMINISTRATIVELY CONTEST OR APPEAL THIS CITATION.

Administrative Fine

\$1,000.00

FOR YOUR PROTECTION AND TO ASSURE PROPER CREDIT,
PLEASE RETURN THE COPY OF THE CITATION
AND NOTE THE CITATION NUMBER ON YOUR CHECK
OR MONEY ORDER.

December 4, 2002
Date

Original Signed By:

STEVEN K. HARTZELL
Executive Officer



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ORDER OF ABATEMENT

December 4, 2002

Citation Against: Sharmishtha Sonawala

Citation No. 02-03-0015

Item No. 1

Violations: Business and Professions Code Section 2630 .

Description:

It is unlawful for any person or persons to practice or offer to practice, physical therapy in this state for compensation received or expected, or to hold himself or herself out as a physical therapist, unless at the time of so doing the person holds a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked license issued under this chapter.

Order of Correction

You are hereby ordered to abate this violation immediately and to cease and desist from further violation.

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Citation and Order of Abatement within 30 days of receipt may result in further legal action.